

The incumbents have a massive advantage in the form of existing wire access to homes, established in times of regulated monopoly. If leasing is not required then the incumbent will rapidly become the only provider and force out all others. In my own case, I obtain DSL access from a third-party and Bell Atlantic's (now Verizon) behavior during provisioning was despicable. And a month or two later my separate circuit was "mysteriously" disconnected in the phone company's cross-connect box late one Friday. If the Bells want to compete in data then they should divest the local loop. If they won't, then they must continue to lease.